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THE TIMING OF BIRTHS AND CHILD SURVIVAL

Teenage child-bearing, especially before age 18, is associated with increased risks of child death. Furthermore, excess mortality risks also appear to be characteristic of children born soon after a preceding birth. These findings have been largely based on data obtained through the World Fertility Survey (WFS) that reflected mostly the experience of the 1970s and earlier periods. Given the dramatic fertility changes experienced by some populations during the 1980s, especially in regard to the timing of births and the incidence of teenage motherhood, it was important to assess whether the conclusions cited above were still valid. A second look at the issue was also needed because the 1980s had witnessed a major thrust to expand the coverage of child survival measures, including extended immunization and the use of oral rehydration salts in the treatment of diarrhoeal dise... To assess the effects of the timing of births on child survival, the Population Division carried out a study whose results have recently been published in a report entitled *The Health Rationale for Family Planning: Timing of Births and Child Survival* (Sales No. E.95.XIII.3).

The study was based on data gathered by the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in 25 developing countries during 1986-1989. The countries covered include: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago in the Americas; Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia in Northern Africa; Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe in sub-Saharan Africa; and Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand in Asia. The study focuses only on children born up to 15 years before a given survey to mothers who were under age 35 at the

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time of the birth. Depending on sample size and fertility level, the range of variation of the number of births considered per survey varied between 5,000 and 25,000 births.

The report consists of two parts. The first presents the results of tabular analyses of the data for the 25 countries considered. Such exploratory analysis is useful to assess data quality and the general relations between the variables of interest. However, such relations must be confirmed through multivariate analysis if the possibility of their being caused by failure to control for other key variables is to be eliminated. The report thus proceeds to present a comprehensive analysis of the data using a multivariate approach. Five different models are fitted to the data, each serving to elucidate a different aspect of the relationship between child survival and the timing of births. A summary of the main results of the multivariate analysis is presented here.

The timing of births

Teenage child-bearing, especially before age 18, is shown to be generally associated with excess child mortality. The excess risk for individual births is considerable, but no larger than that associated with moderately short birth intervals preceding a birth (of 18-24 months), and the proportion of births to very young mothers is usually low. Clearly, delaying the beginning of child-bearing would reduce the risks of death among first-born children and it might also have subsequent reproductive benefits, but its overall effect on child mortality would be small (at most 6 per cent on average).

Just as was shown using WFS data, once other factors are controlled, birth order does not emerge as a powerful correlate of child mortality. In contrast, but again in line with results obtained on the basis of WFS information, the spacing of births appears as the most powerful and consistent correlate of child mortality among the elements providing a health rationale for family planning. The strong and widespread association of short preceding birth intervals with increased mortality risks persists even when a wide range of controls is introduced in the multivariate analysis. The net overall average maximal gain in child mortality resulting from the elimination of all short birth intervals is estimated to be about 21 per cent.

At the regional level, certain broad patterns of association persist and are consistent with those suggested by WFS. In Northern African countries, the excess risks for poorly spaced births tend to be high and the proportions of births experiencing those risks are also substantial. Hence, the timing of births alone is responsible for a 44 per cent excess mortality net of all other factors. In Latin American countries, there are also high proportions of births preceded by intervals of less than two years and excess risks are marked, resulting in a 30 per cent average excess risk at the population level net of other factors. In Asian and sub-Saharan African countries, patterns of birth-spacing are generally better and excess risks are somewhat lower so that, at the population level, net excess child mortality associated with short birth intervals hovers around 20 per cent.

"...the spacing of births appears as the most powerful and consistent correlate of child mortality among the elements providing a health rationale for family planning".

Other correlates

Throughout the analysis, maternal education emerges as a very powerful and pervasive correlate of child survival. Net of other factors, universal provision of seven or more years of schooling to women might lower overall child mortality by a maximum of 40 per cent, assuming that all differentials associated with maternal education are a direct result of schooling. However, the new evidence suggests that the advantages of having an educated mother are weaker in the sub-Saharan African countries considered; and that they would be very substantial (leading to a 50 per cent reduction of child mortality) in Northern Africa.

In several countries, striking regional differences in child survival are patent. If all regions could achieve

the mortality experience of the region with the lowest level of child mortality within each country, there might be an average net maximal reduction in child mortality of some 30 per cent. Regional variations in child survival are even more pronounced for first births. Such regional variations seem to have arisen in significant measure from differential health interventions and it is noteworthy that they were not revealed by WFS data.

Regarding trends in child mortality attributable exclusively to the passage of time, they showed considerable variation among countries, but the net impact over a 10-year period averaged a 22 per cent reduction in child mortality not captured by any of the other factors controlled for.

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When only births of order two and above were considered, there were fairly clear indications of an increased risk of death for a child having an older sibling who had died. However, the data did not support the existence of major clustering of deaths within families, since the cumulative effect of more than one preceding death on the survival chances of a child was not evident. At the population level, all the information on death clustering accounts for an average net 10 per cent excess child mortality. There is also some indication that knowledge about the death of the immediately older sibling conveys more information about the survival chances of a child than does knowledge about the survival status of other older siblings. This phenomenon may arise because of the rapid improvements in child survival that were revealed by the time trends or because the death of the immediately preceding child may contribute more directly to the mortality of a child by inducing a short birth interval. The implications of death clustering merit further exploration.

Policy implications

Since interventions to improve levels of female education are desirable on several grounds, the implication of better female education for child survival reinforces the importance of improving the access of girls to education systems. Yet, much needs to be elucidated about the pathways through which maternal education improves child health and, possibly, to establish if fewer than seven years of schooling or a different curriculum can have equivalent effects.

There are also striking net variations in child mortality by regions within countries. Some of these contrasts arise from differing disease ecologies but it is likely that divergences in health provision and infrastructure play an important role. Substantial gains in child mortality can be achieved through reductions in regional disparities brought about by measures that ensure convergence to the region experiencing the lowest mortality.

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While there is still a need to understand the mechanisms involved, it is clear that children born after short birth intervals are subject to excess risks of dying young. Such association between child-spacing and child mortality is now documented for such a variety of societies differing in terms of birth interval patterns, health and contraceptive provision, and levels of human development that it is unlikely to be spurious. These findings thus constitute an important basis for the health rationale for family planning. If children are to be born healthy and remain healthy, birth-spacing is crucial, along with the avoidance of

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early child-bearing. Furthermore, if women are to avoid the repeated risks of pregnancy and birth, longer birth intervals are also a good strategy to follow.

This study strongly reinforces the proposition that, at the societal level, family planning can save the lives of children by preventing child-bearing before age 18, or possibly age 20, and, more important, by ensuring that all birth intervals are at least two years in length. The positive effects of such measures on child survival can be considerable and are likely to be complemented by wider health benefits for the child. The health rationale for family planning is thus a strong one.

CONCISE REPORT ON THE WORLD POPULATION SITUATION IN 1994

The forthcoming *Concise Report on the World Population Situation in 1995* is the tenth in a series of periodic concise reviews of developments in the field of population prepared by the Population Division. The 1995 report provides a summary of the latest information about population size and growth, mortality, fertility, population distribution and international migration, and it examines the linkages between population and the environment, focusing on population and land-carrying capacity. Its main findings are summarized below.

"By mid-1994, the world population was estimated to be 5.63 billion persons and to be growing at an annual rate of 1.57 per cent, significantly below the annual rate of 1.73 per cent that prevailed during 1975-1990. The less developed regions were home to 79 per cent of the world population (4.47 billion persons), increasing at an annual rate of 1.9 per cent. In contrast, the 1.16 billion persons living in more developed regions were increasing at 0.4 per cent annually."

By mid-1994, the world population was estimated to be 5.63 billion persons and to be growing at an annual rate of 1.57 per cent, significantly below the annual rate of 1.73 per cent that prevailed during 1975-1990. The less developed regions were home to 79 per cent of the world population (4.47 billion persons), increasing at an annual rate of 1.9 per cent. In contrast, the 1.16 billion persons living in more developed regions were increasing at 0.4 per cent annually. Population growth was highest in the group of least developed countries, whose growth rate stood at 2.8 per cent per annum during 1990-1995.

The rate of population growth differed markedly among the major areas of the world, with Europe growing the slowest and Africa fastest. In Eastern Europe, population growth was negative during 1990-1995 as a result of the net out-migration, sharp fertility declines and the rising or stagnant mortality levels experienced by several countries in the region.

The United Nations medium fertility-variant projections indicate that the growth rate of the world population will continue to decline. However, the number of people added annually to the world population will remain between 86 million and 88 million until 2015, and the less developed regions will absorb about 95 per cent of that number.

Since more countries are experiencing a decline in population growth, a change in the perception of Governments regarding population growth is noticeable. Thus, whereas the number of Governments that consider their rates of population growth to be too low has continued to decline, the number that view their population growth as too high has continued to increase and, in 1994, the number that view their population growth as satisfactory increased for the first time since 1974. As of 1994, 22 out of 190 countries considered their population growth rates to be too

low, 78 considered them to be too high and 90 felt they were satisfactory.

At the global level, mortality continues to decline, with life expectancy at birth estimated to have reached 64.4 years in 1990-1995, an increase of 6.5 years with respect to 1970-1975. In the more developed regions, children born in 1990-1995 were expected to live 74.4 years on average, over 12 years more than their counterparts born in the less developed regions as a whole who, in turn, would live 11 years more than children born in the least developed countries where life expectancy at birth was only 51.2 years. Thus, major differences in mortality levels remained between countries and regions. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa experienced the highest mortality levels, and reductions in mortality have been slow or non-existent in the countries of Eastern, Middle and Western Africa that have been most affected by the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic. Mortality rates have also stagnated or increased in Eastern Europe since the 1970s, mainly among adult men.

At the world level, during 1990-1995, 64 out of every 1,000 children died before reaching age 1 and 86 out of every 1,000 died before reaching age 5. Despite the progress made in reducing mortality in childhood, the differences between the more developed and the less developed regions remain large. In the more developed regions, only 10 out of every 1,000 children died before age 1 and only 13 out of 1,000 before age 5, while the corresponding figures in the less developed regions were 70 and 95 per 1,000, respectively.

Revised fertility estimates for 1980-1995 suggest that the pace of fertility decline for the world as a whole has accelerated in recent years. Between 1980-1985 and 1990-1995, total fertility at the world level declined by 13.9 per cent, passing from 3.6 to 3.1 children per woman. The world average, however, conceals large differences in fertility patterns experienced at the regional and country levels. Indeed, during 1990-1995, total fertility in the more developed regions was 1.7 births per woman whereas in the group of least developed countries it stood at 5.8 births per woman, a disparity that reflects the differences in socio-economic development and contraceptive prevalence experienced in those two groups of countries. Fertility continues to be highest in Africa, where women expected to have 5.8 children over their lifetimes according to the rates prevalent in 1990-1995. The equivalent values for Latin America and Asia were 3.1 and 3.0 births per woman, respectively. In the more developed regions, total fertility remains below replacement level and fertility declines were apparent in Southern Europe, where total fertility declined from 1.8 children per woman in 1980-1985 to 1.4 in 1990-1995, and in Eastern Europe, where total fertility fell from 2.1 to 1.6 children per woman between 1985-1990 and 1990-1995.

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In developing countries, there is a close relation between declines in fertility and increasing contraceptive use. According to data available through mid-1994, 57 per cent of the world's couples where the wife was of reproductive age were using contraception. Although contraceptive use tended to remain low in many African countries and certain countries in other regions, most developing countries with data for at least two points in time had experienced a substantial increase in the level of contraceptive use.

As of mid-1994, 45 per cent of the world population lived in urban areas and, with the urban population growing three times as fast as its rural counterpart, by 2005 half of all people in the world are expected to live in urban areas. Patterns of urbanization differ markedly between the more developed and the less developed regions. In 1994, 75 per cent of inhabitants of the more developed regions and only 37 per cent of those in the less developed regions were urban dwellers. However, the urban population in less developed regions was growing considerably more rapidly than that in more developed regions.

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Over the past decade, international migration has been the demographic process most clearly affected by the momentous changes in the world order. The disintegration of States has given rise overnight to population groups that can henceforth be considered international migrants. In addition, substantial flows of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons have brought migration issues to the forefront of the international agenda. However, data to monitor recent international migration trends are still sketchy. Newly prepared comparable estimates for the world as a whole indicate that stock of international migrants reached 106 million in 1985, and that 4.1 per cent of the total population in the more developed regions and 1.6 per cent of that in the less developed regions were migrants. These figures fail to reflect the changes that have taken place since 1985 when world events led to substantial increases in migration, especially that directed to Europe and the United States. In Asia, migration to the newly industrialized countries and Japan has been growing. There have also been changes in migration flows within Latin America and Africa.

The changing migration flows have had a significant impact on national policies. Concern about a growing number of both legal and illegal migrants has led an increasing number of Governments, particularly in the more developed regions, to reconsider their migration policies and introduce legislation designed to curb the inflow of migrants and asylum-seekers. In 1994, 43 per cent of developed countries had policies to lower migration, compared to 39 per cent in 1989 and to 28 per cent among developing countries in 1994.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF AIDS FOR ORPHANHOOD IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Epidemiological data indicate that AIDS is having a devastating impact on all aspects of life in Africa and that it is leading to substantial demographic changes in areas with the highest incidence rates. Since HIV infection is concentrated in the middle age range, mortality due to AIDS is having a significant impact on patterns of caregiving for both children and the elderly. In circumstances where the mother is infected or has died, her children may be at increased risk of malnutrition, other infectious diseases and death. The mothers themselves or other caregivers may not provide adequate care and nurturing, particularly in subsistence economies or in situations where the morbidity of infants and young children has traditionally been high. Furthermore, some of the children may also be HIV-positive as a result of perinatal transmission of the infection between mother and child.

The Population Division estimates that in the 15 African countries with the highest prevalence of HIV infection, 7.8 million adults and 1.5 million children under the age of five years had been infected with HIV by 1995. By 2005, the number of people infected is projected to rise to 20.6 million adults and 4.8 million children. The highest rates of HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa are among persons of reproductive age. In Africa, women are infected as frequently as men, and children born of HIV-positive mothers have a high risk of contracting HIV or becoming orphans early in life. Of course, in high-mortality populations such as those of Africa, women are at risk of dying not only from AIDS but from other causes, including obstetric complications and malaria. However, owing to the increased mortality of young women because of AIDS, high levels of maternal orphanhood at young ages are already evident.

Very few studies have so far addressed the issue of the implications of AIDS for orphanhood. The United Nations report entitled *World Population Prospects:*

The 1994 Revision prepared by the Population Division has factored into the demographic estimates and projections the impact of AIDS for those countries in which HIV seroprevalence was above 1 per cent among the adult population (persons aged 15 years or over) in 1992. They include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The study considered the impact of mortality caused by AIDS on maternal orphanhood in those countries, an issue of particular importance in societies where women have traditionally been the caretakers and nurturers of children.

Two alternative sets of estimates and projections were prepared to assess the impact of AIDS on maternal orphanhood: (*a*) the number of children under the age of 10, alive at the indicated date, whose mothers had died from AIDS or any other cause; and (*b*) the number of children under the age of 10, alive at the indicated date, whose mother would have been expected to be dead if AIDS had not existed. The difference between those numbers is an indicator of the effect of AIDS on maternal orphanhood (see table 1).

As the data show, even in the absence of the AIDS epidemic a large number of children would have been orphaned in sub-Saharan Africa. For many of the countries considered, AIDS is just another life-threatening trauma occurring side-by-side with internal conflicts, debt crises and related structural adjustment programmes, drought, famine and endemic conditions of poor sanitation, nutritional deficiencies, and poor maternal and child health. None the less, by 1995, AIDS was responsible for increasing maternal orphanhood in those countries by 43 per cent, and only 10 years from now, 4.2 million children under the age of 10 are expected to be without a mother, twice the number that would have been expected in the absence of AIDS.

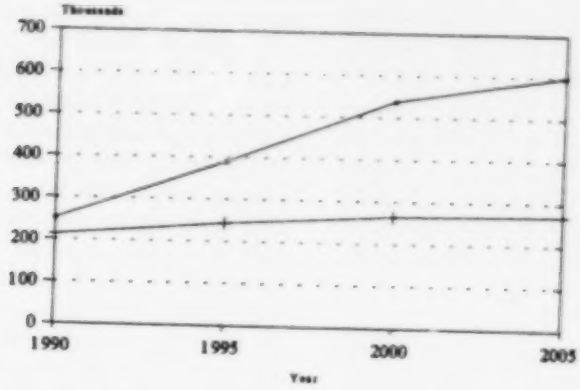
These aggregate numbers mask the dire situation in the hardest hit countries, such as Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe (see figure I). In Zimbabwe, for instance, the number of children under age 10 without mothers in 1995 is more than twice the number expected in the

TABLE 1. ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH MOTHER DEAD, IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(Thousands)

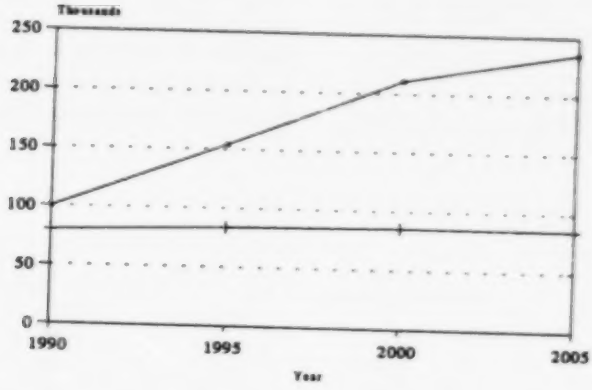
		1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*
15 country aggregate	With AIDS	2 107.7	2 875.1	3 771.2	4 210.2
	Without AIDS	1 879.8	2 006.4	2 096.5	2 116.1
	Difference	227.9	868.7	1 674.7	2 094.1
	Percentage due to AIDS	12.1	43.3	79.9	99.0
Uganda	With AIDS	251.0	388.8	537.5	599.6
	Without AIDS	212.7	243.4	264.1	270.0
	Difference	38.3	145.4	273.4	329.6
	Percentage due to AIDS	18.0	59.7	103.5	122.1
Zambia	With AIDS	99.7	154.0	211.0	235.6
	Without AIDS	79.8	83.8	85.7	85.4
	Difference	19.9	70.2	125.3	150.2
	Percentage due to AIDS	25.0	83.7	146.3	175.9
Zimbabwe	With AIDS	89.7	141.8	197.7	217.2
	Without AIDS	68.0	66.6	63.6	58.5
	Difference	21.7	75.1	134.1	158.7
	Percentage due to AIDS	32.0	112.8	210.8	271.3

Figure 1. Estimates of the number of children with mother dead in selected African countries

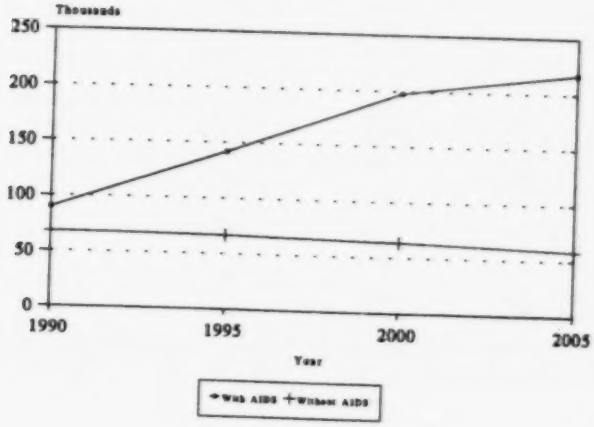
Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe



absence of AIDS. By 2005, 217,000 Zimbabwian children are expected to have lost their mothers, a number three and half times larger than that expected without AIDS. Similarly, by 2005, Zambia is expected to have 150,000 maternal orphans above the 85,000 expected in the absence of AIDS. In terms of absolute numbers of orphaned children, Uganda will be hardest hit, with about 600,000 maternal orphans by the year 2005 of whom almost 330,000 will have lost their mothers as a result of AIDS. The social and economic implications of these estimates are major, and it is clear that the countries most affected by the AIDS epidemic are faced with the pressing task of devising ways in which to aid the increasing number of young orphans that the epidemic is producing.

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONTRACEPTIVE PRACTICES

Most of what is known about contraceptive practice is derived from surveys of women but, within the past few years, more surveys have included men. A comparison of men's and women's answers to questions about contraceptive use is presented below. A more in-depth treatment of the issue will be presented in a forthcoming publication of the Population Division entitled *Levels and Trends of Contraceptive Use as Assessed in 1994* (United Nations, forthcoming).

The increasing inclusion of men in surveys dealing with family planning is motivated partly by a recognition that reproductive behaviour cannot be adequately understood without asking men about their fertility and contraceptive knowledge, attitudes and behaviour, and partly by related concerns about understanding and preventing transmission of sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS. Nearly half the surveys of men that were available for review were conducted in sub-Saharan African countries, although there are some surveys covering men in all major regions. Many of the surveys considered consisted of samples of men interviewed as part of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) programme. The discussion below focuses on a comparison of men's and women's reports of current contraceptive use and on how gender differences vary by marital status.

In Asia, Latin America and Europe, married men's and women's reports of current contraceptive use are usually not far apart, but in many sub-Saharan African countries men report substantially more use of contraception. Considering only the direction, not the size, of the male/female difference, men reported higher levels of contraceptive use in all of the sub-Saharan African countries with data available but in less than half of the countries in other regions. The aggregate differences in reported levels of contraceptive use among husband-and-wife samples conceal a greater disagreement at the individual level. Although the relevant information was available for only a few surveys, it appears that couples disagree relatively more often about use of traditional methods, such as the calendar rhythm method or withdrawal, than about the use of modern methods.

Where men report more contraceptive use, the difference between male and female reports is usually due mainly to greater use by men of condoms and rhythm (see figure II). It is worth noting that the success of the rhythm method at preventing pregnancy is heavily dependent on strict adherence to rules restricting intercourse to such periods in which the risk of conception is low. A number of recent surveys have tried to ascertain whether women using

rhythm method have a correct understanding of when they are at greatest risk of conceiving within the menstrual cycle. It may be equally relevant to investigate men's knowledge in this regard.

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Male-female differences in levels of contraceptive use tend to be greater when all marital statuses are included in the comparison than when only samples of married couples are compared, an outcome that may reflect mainly differences in the proportions of unmarried men and women who are sexually active.

Unmarried men usually report considerably higher levels of condom use than do married men, even though the overall level of contraceptive practice is higher among the married. The condom is the only method for which levels of use are usually higher for unmarried than for married men (see figure II).

It is not possible to say whether the reports of either men or women about contraceptive practice are more accurate. Differences in sample definition and in the number of sexual partners probably are responsible for many of the differences detected. However, differences in sample definition alone could not account for the widespread, and often large, gender differences in reported use of condoms and rhythm.

The evidence reviewed here confirms that it is important to include men in surveys of contraceptive practice in order to obtain a comprehensive picture. However, the information obtained so far from surveys of men is of limited use to estimate current or short-term requirements for contraceptive supplies or to study the role of condom use in disease prevention. To evaluate risks of sexual transmission of diseases, in particular, it is important to know the number of sexual partners and the regularity with which condoms are used with different partners. Few surveys of the population of reproductive age have gathered such information. Probably the main factor that has limited data collection on such topics has been the belief that questions on those issues are too sensitive and personal, and the assumption that asking about such matters would offend respondents and endanger the success of the survey. However, recent experience in a variety of cultural settings has shown that, with proper questionnaire design, interviewer training and sound procedures for protecting the confidentiality of responses, refusal rates for such questions are low. Without information about sexual behaviour, it is impossible to assess the comprehensive need for family planning services or for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and it is likewise difficult to tell whether programmes are reaching those who need them.

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TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE OF MARRIED MEN AND WOMEN USING ANY CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD, AND PERCENTAGE USING CONDOMS AND RHYTHM

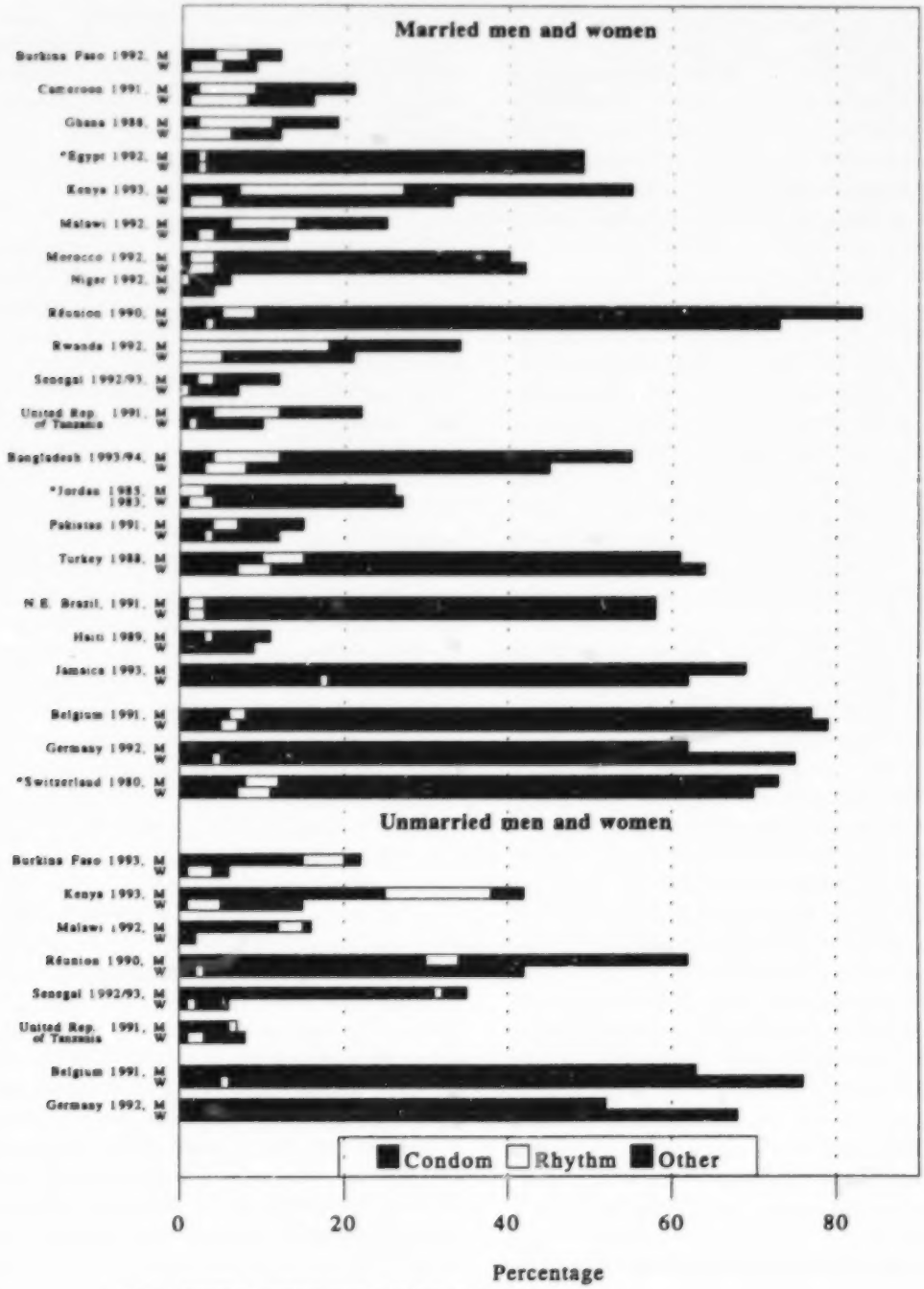
Country	*Year*	*Base population*	*Any method*	*Condom*	*Rhythm*	*Other methods*
		A. *Husbands and wives belonging to the same couple*				
Africa						
Egypt	1992	Men with wives 15-49	49	2	1	46
		Wives 15-49	49	2	1	46
Ethiopia	1991	Men with wives[a] 15-49	11	..	..	..
		Wives[a] 15-49	8	..	..	..
Asia						
Bangladesh	1989	Men with wives < 50	36	3	6	28
		Wives < 50	35	2	4	28
Jordan	1985	Husbands[b]	26	0	3	23
	1983	Wives 15-49	27	1	3	23
Pakistan	1991	Men with wives 15-49	15	..	..	..
		Wives 15-49	13	..	..	..
Europe						
Switzerland	1980	Husbands[c]	73	8	4	61
		Wives	71	7	4	59
		B. *Other samples of married men and women*				
Africa						
Burkina Faso	1993	Men 18+	12	4	4	4
		Women 15-49	8	1	4	4
Cameroon	1991	Men with wives 15-49	20	2	7	12
		Women 15-49	16	1	7	8
Ghana	1988	Men with wives 15-49	20	2	9	8
		Women 15-49	13	0	6	6
Kenya	1993	Men 20-54	55	7	20	28
		Women 15-49	33	1	4	28
Malawi	1992	Men 20-54	25	6	8	11
		Women 15-49	13	2	2	9
Morocco	1992	Men 20+	39	1	3	36
		Women 15-49	42	1	3	38
Niger	1992	Men with wives 15-49	7	0	1	5
		Women 15-49	4	0	0	4
Réunion	1990	Men 15-49	84	5	4	74
		Women 15-49	73	3	1	69
Rwanda	1992	Men with wives 15-49	34	0	18	16
		Women 15-49	21	0	5	16
Senegal	1992/93	Men 20+	11	2	2	8
		Women 15-49	7	0	1	6
United Rep. of Tanzania	1991	Men 15-60	22	4	8	10
		Women 15-49	10	1	1	8

TABLE 2 (*continued*)

Country	Year	Base population	Any method	Condom	Rhythm	Other methods
Asia						
Bangladesh	1993/94[a]	Men with wives 10-49	55	4	8	43
		Women 10-49	45	3	5	37
Pakistan	1991[a]	Men with wives 15-49	15	4	3	8
		Women 15-49	12	3	1	8
Turkey	1988	Men with wives 15-49	62	10	5	46
		Women 15-49	63	7	4	53
Latin America						
Brazil (North-eastern)	1991	Men with wives 15-49	58	1	2	55
		Women 15-49	59	1	2	55
Dominica	1982	Men 15-49	44	14	--- 60 ---	
	1981	Women 15-44	49	4	--- 45 ---	
Haiti	1989	Men 15-59	11	3	1	7
		Women 15-49	10	0	0	9
Jamaica	1993	Men 15-54	69	34	0	35
		Women 15-44	62	17	1	44
Europe						
Belgium	1991	Men 20-40	77	6	2	69
		Women 20-40	79	5	2	72
Germany	1992	Men 20-39	62	10	0	52
		Women 20-39	75	4	1	70
		C. Unmarried men and women				
Africa						
Burkina Faso	1993	Men not CM, 18+	22	15	5	2
		Women not CM, 15-49	7	1	3	2
Kenya	1993	Men not CM, 20-54	42	25	13	4
		Women not CM, 15-49	15	1	4	10
Malawi	1992	Single men 20-54	16	12	3	1
		Single women 15-49	2	1	0	1
Réunion	1990	Single men 15-49	62	30	4	28
		Single women 15-49	42	2	1	39
Senegal	1992/93	Men not CM, 20+	35	31	1	3
		Women not CM, 15-49	6	1	1	4
United Rep. of Tanzania	1991	Men not CM, 15-60	6	6	1	0
		Women not CM, 15-49	8	1	2	5
Europe						
Belgium	1991	Men not CM, 20-40	63	16	0	47
		Women not CM, 20-39	75	5	1	70
Germany	1992	Men not CM, 20-39	51	22	0	30
		Women not CM, 20-39	68	4	0	64

NOTE: In most cases couples in consensual unions are included with the married.
CM = currently married or in consensual union.
[a]Not pregnant.
[b]Husbands were re-interviewed two years after interviews with wives who were aged 15-49 in 1983.
[c]Sample of husbands and wives married between 1970 and 1979.
[d]Preliminary.
[e]Samples include the couples shown in Panel A.

Figure II. Percentage of men and women currently using contraception



NOTE: "Married" samples usually include consensual unions.
An asterisk (*) denotes husband-wife pairs.
M = men.
W = women.

GLOBAL REVIEW AND INVENTORY OF POPULATION POLICY:1993 (GRIPP:1993)

As part of its continuous monitoring of population policies, the Population Division maintains a database known as *Global Review of Population Policies* (GRIPP) which allows the widespread dissemination of information on changing population policies worldwide. The database is available on diskette and is updated every two years. It allows the analysis of trends in national population policies.

The database provides the most complete and up-to-date information available on the population policies of each of the States Members of the United Nations, drawn from the Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division. The topics covered by the database include policies on population growth; health and mortality; fertility; internal migration and spatial distribution; immigration and emigration; and the integration of population variables into development planning.

The information in the Population Policy Data Bank derives from a variety of sources. One major source is official replies by Governments to the United Nations Population Inquiries conducted in 1963, 1972, 1976, 1978, 1982, 1987 and 1992. Other major sources of information are national development plans; publications describing laws and regulations; national reports prepared for the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994; official statements made by government representatives at population conferences; population planning documents; articles from the world press, academic journals and population newsletters; bibliographic services; and consultations with technical experts, staff from various organizations of the United Nations system and governmental agencies.

"The database provides the most complete and up-to-date information available on the population policies of each of the States Members of the United Nations...".

GRIPP:1993 is the fourth and most recent version of the database. It is available on diskette with two supporting publications, *Global Population Policy Database, 1993*, and *Population Policy Diskette Documentation, 1993*.

The diskette contains data on the population policies and policy perceptions of 190 countries, assessed as of June 1994. The database also includes information on selected demographic indicators, namely, current and projected population size, current levels of fertility and mortality, current population growth rates, and proportions foreign-born. To increase flexibility in its use, the diskette contains a data file in American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), another one in LOTUS 1-2-3, and two dictionaries: a "standard" dictionary in International Statistical Institute standard format and a "full" dictionary providing complete descriptions of variables and the way in which they were coded. In addition, column A of the LOTUS 1-2-3 spreadsheet provides a mapping of the variable names and locations. It should be used in conjunction with the full dictionary. The ASCII file is formatted in such a way that all relevant numerical entries are separated by at least one space and all character strings are delimited by quotation marks so as to facilitate importation by a wide variety of proprietary software packages.

The diskette is accompanied by the document *Population Policy Diskette Documentation, 1993*, which describes the files on the diskette and presents a printed version of the "standard" dictionary, a description of the variables used and a summary view of them. The other supporting publication, *Global Population Policy Database, 1993* (Sales No. E.95.XIII.9), presents an overview of the GRIPP: 1993 data along with a population policy profile of each of the 190 countries considered. Annexes to the publication provide a summary description of the variables used and a detailed description of the meaning of the codes for each variable.

The Population Division encourages users of the GRIPP database to indicate any instance in which the coding of population policy for a particular country appears to be in conflict with the current situation. Those interested in purchasing a copy of *GRIPP: 1993* or in obtaining further information about the database should write to The Director, Population Division, United Nations Secretariat, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017; fax number (212) 963-2147.

GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Since the 1970s, population issues have become salient in the popular understanding of environmental problems. Although methodological constraints and lack of adequate data limit the scientific understanding of the various ways in which population interacts with the environment, there is a strong international consensus regarding the fact that population, environment and development are inextricably linked. It is also recognized that bringing about a sustainable relationship between the numbers of people, resources and development requires activities at all levels, ranging from the local to the global. At the core of this consensus is the realization that most environmental problems are global in nature and thus require global solutions. Consequently, international organizations and, in particular, the United Nations, are increasingly becoming the main forums for discussion, negotiation and the fashioning of instruments for change.

A report prepared recently by the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis reviews the evolution of Governments' views regarding the impact that population size, growth and spatial distribution has on the physical environment. Those views were derived from national reports prepared in connection with the International Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) and the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), as well as from government statements made at those forums. They are presented together with the consensus reached in the final documents of the conferences, in particular, Agenda 21, adopted at the International Conference on Environment and Development, and the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development.

Since the 1970s, the United Nations conferences on population, and on the environment, have contributed to the clarification of problems related to these issues and to the design of a common approach to address them, as well as to define the role of the United Nations system in these areas. Although the documents adopted at the conferences are generally not binding, such meetings encourage Governments to formulate positions and work towards the adoption of common strategies. The perceptions of population-environment interactions and their implications for policy vary across both countries and regions. National approaches are shaped by a wide array of factors, including a country's objectives in the realm of international relations and its national development strategy.

Since the concept of development underlies most national perspectives regarding environmental and population issues, the report begins by documenting its evolution. It then describes how population and environmental issues have been addressed in the strategies adopted during each of the United Nations development decades. The evolution of the consideration of population factors in forums dealing with environmental matters is traced from the first world conference on the environment held in Stockholm in 1972 to the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The emergence of consensus regarding the environmental consequences of population pressure is traced through the outcomes of the United Nations population conferences held since 1974. Then, the

positions regarding population and environment interactions adopted by the Governments of Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden and the United States are analysed in some detail.

The study shows that official recognition of the negative impact of a growing population on the environment has expanded during the past 20 years. At present the Governments of at least 80 countries have expressed concern about the growing imbalances between population and the environment. The Governments of numerous developing countries have concluded that rapid population growth and the unbalanced geographical distribution of the population has led to urban congestion and pollution, soil degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. Most inhabitants of less developed regions (69 per cent in Africa, 82 per cent in Asia, and 85 per cent in Latin America) live in the countries that have acknowledged officially the negative impact of high population growth on the environment.

Concern about the negative environmental impact of rapid population growth and unbalanced spatial distribution of the population underlies the concept of sustainable development, which implies that States must reduce and eventually eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate population policies so as to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the future of generations to come. Consideration of the interactions between population and the environment plays an essential role in fostering a long-term perspective in framing development strategies and promoting the understanding of the intrinsic interconnectedness of the world. United Nations conferences have greatly contributed to generating the political commitment needed to integrate developmental, population and environmental concerns at the global, regional, national and local levels. There is now broad agreement that development, environmental and population policies cannot be implemented in isolation from each other and that a holistic approach is more likely to increase their effectiveness.

"...official recognition of the negative impact of a growing population on the environment has expanded during the past 20 years. At present the Governments of at least 80 countries have expressed concern about the growing imbalances between population and the environment."

POPIN UPDATE

Latin America

From 26 to 28 April 1995, the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the global POPIN Coordinating Unit co-sponsored a Planning Workshop to discuss future Latin American POPIN activities aimed at building upon and extending existing CELADE and regional information activities. The future expansion of POPIN activities was also addressed. Participants in the Workshop included experts representing centres that produced and used population information, such as a national population council, the Latin American UNFPA Country Support Team, a university-based population research centre, a non-governmental organization, an international organization (the International Organization for Migration) and a regional association of population research centres (PROLAP).

The objectives of the Workshop were to identify unmet and emerging needs for bibliographic and numerical population information at the local, national and regional levels within Latin America and the Caribbean, and to outline strategies to meet those needs that would include the use of the Internet and other relevant technologies.

The Workshop considered that the general objectives of the Latin American POPIN should be: (*a*) to

enhance the accessibility of information regarding population and development to a wider audience in the region through the use of the Internet and other information technologies; (*b*) to integrate the Latin American Documentation System (DOCPAL) and the Latin American POPIN Network (IPALCA) more closely with the regional POPINs operating in the other United Nations regional commissions, taking into consideration the recommendations in the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development and the regional mandate of ECLAC. Achieving such objectives would ultimately facilitate not only the production, dissemination and analysis of population information but also the inclusion of population factors in the formulation and implementation of development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, population information would become more readily accessible to both primary and secondary users in the public and private sectors. Lastly, the coordination of regional, national and non-governmental population information activities in Latin America and the Caribbean would be enhanced by strengthening DOCPAL and IPALCA, and by fostering closer collaboration with the global POPIN Coordinating Unit, other United Nations regional commissions and the regional POPINs.

The Workshop also identified a number of problems regarding the dissemination of population information and suggested some solutions, including the development of Internet services in national IPALCA centres, where possible, and when not, the provision of access to the Internet through ECLAC; the provision of assistance to make standardized full text available on the Internet with backup on CD-ROM; the distribution of software to process population information, together with tutorials, and of the DOCPAL and IPALCA bibliographic databases via the Internet and CD-ROM; the development of training materials to enable users to locate population information; and carrying out case-studies on how to improve the access and use of population data by key users at the local level.

POPIN Advisory Committee

The POPIN Advisory Committee was established in 1982 to serve as a "global voice" that would articulate problems hampering the effective delivery of technical information to users and propose solutions to the problems identified. The Committee consists of representatives of the regional commissions, United Nations agencies and POPIN member institutions in both developed and developing countries. It met in Geneva in September 1990 and will hold its next meeting in Bangkok in June 1995.

The objectives of the Advisory Committee Meeting are: (*a*) to review the status of POPIN activities and of electronic and computer networking in each of the regions; (*b*) to review POPIN's work programme and future plans; and (*c*) to draft regional and global strategies for POPIN activities for the next four years.

The forthcoming meeting of the Advisory Committee will coincide with that of the Information Technology Advisory Group which was established to address technical issues related to the compilation and dissemination of population information by using electronic communication and other computer-based information technologies. The goals of the Working Group meeting are to review the status of POPIN activities with regard to electronic and networking technologies in each of the regions; to discuss procedures and draft guidelines for the display and dissemination of tables, charts, graphs, maps etc. in the Internet and in CD-ROM format; to discuss the logistics of covering significant population conferences in each region; and to discuss processes and procedures for archiving electronic full-text documents and for producing CD-ROM databases. While in Bangkok, the members of the Working Group will also provide advisory services and informal training to the staff of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and to those of other population institutions in the city.

THE VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In the context of its deliberations on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/127, entitled "International migration and development", in which it requested the Secretary-General "to prepare, in consultation with all States and relevant international and regional organizations, a report on international migration and development, including aspects related to objectives and modalities for the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 for discussion". The Secretary-General designated the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) as the focal point for the preparation of the report requested. Consequently, and in accordance with resolution 49/127, the views of Governments regarding the convening of an international conference on international migration and development were solicited through a letter sent to all permanent representatives to the United Nations by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. The letter, which was sent by 6 February 1995, indicated that responses were expected by 3 March. By 26 April 1995, responses had been received from the following Governments:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France (on behalf of the 15 members of the European Union), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, United States, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

Because of the high level of non-response, it is not possible to assess how far the responses obtained represent the views of all Governments.

Of the Governments responding, 19 (including the member States of the European Union) expressed reservations about holding the proposed international conference, suggesting that a decision to convene a conference was premature and that other mechanisms for addressing the issues raised by international migration in relation to development should be considered first. Another three Governments, though somewhat more favourable to the possibility of convening an international conference, felt that more work was necessary to establish an agenda for political negotiations, in particular by identifying areas of possible agreement and promoting an exchange of views at the regional level. The remaining 15 countries were generally in favour of convening an international conference but expressed a variety of views regarding its possible objectives and the issues that should be addressed.

There was general agreement among the responding Governments that an international conference on international migration would be of a political nature, involving negotiations among Governments. However, it was noted that such a conference would have to deal also with technical and substantive issues, particularly in relation to the formulation of effective recommendations for action.

"Of the Governments responding, 19 expressed reservations about holding the proposed international conference; another three felt that more work was necessary to establish an agenda for political negotiations; the remaining 15 were generally in favour of convening an international conference... ".

Most countries that favoured holding a conference suggested that its main outcome would be a programme of action, possibly accompanied by a declaration. A few suggested that such a conference could be used to promote the ratification of relevant international instruments relating to migration. Other countries were of the opinion that the adequacy of those instruments had to be assessed and the results of such assessment should be reflected in the programme of action.

Regarding the preparatory process for a possible conference, 13 out of the 15 Governments that expressed an opinion supported the holding of regional meetings that would facilitate reaching a first level of agreement on difficult issues. Countries favouring the holding of a global conference suggested that, in addition to regional meetings, there should be two or three meetings of the preparatory committee. Most countries favoured the active participation of relevant international organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process and in the conference itself. Among the 11 countries that mentioned a possible date for a conference, all but two cited 1997 or later.

Countries that were reluctant to hold a global conference on international migration expressed no views on its possible modalities. However, recognizing that international migration and its relation to development is an important issue, they suggested that it be treated by the normal machinery of the United Nations. Thus, it was noted that the Commission on Population and Development had already decided to devote 1997 to the consideration of international migration and development as a special topic in its deliberations. Furthermore, it was suggested that the topic could be considered by the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. Most countries that did not favour holding a conference on international migration indicated that there had already been too many global conferences and that it was wiser to work towards the implementation of the agreements reached by ICPD or the World Summit for Social Development than to spend scarce resources on another global conference.

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, decided that the Population Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development and that it should meet on an annual basis. The renamed Commission held its twenty-eighth session from 21 February to 2 March 1995 under the chairmanship of Ruth Archibald (Canada). V.K. Shunglu (India), José Gómez de León (Mexico), Jerzy Holzer (Poland) and Abderrazak Azaiez (Tunisia) were elected Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Shunglu also served as Rapporteur.

The Commission began its work by holding a general debate, during which members exchanged views and national experiences in the area of population. It discussed the concise report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies as well as reports on national programmes and multilateral assistance.

The most important item of the agenda of the Commission at this session was consideration of the follow-up action to be taken by the United Nations to the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Commission discussed the Programme of Action at length and highlighted areas that needed special attention. Discussions were also held on the functioning of the Commission on Population and Development, its proposed terms of reference, secretariat support, management, inter-agency coordination, resource base and work programme. It was decided that the Commission would meet once a year, beginning in 1996, normally for a period of five working days. The various issues considered as well as the composition, membership and term of office of the Commission will be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1995.

With regard to follow-up activities to ICPD, the Commission called for a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. It proposed reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication, as the theme to be addressed in 1996. Themes selected for future years included international migration, with special emphasis on the linkages between migration and develop-

ment, and on gender issues and the family (1997); health and mortality, with special emphasis on the linkages between health and development, and on gender and age (1998); and population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education (1999). In addition, in 1999, the Commission would consider the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Population Division was charged with coordinating the preparation of the annual world population monitoring reports as well as that of the review and appraisal.

"It was decided that the Commission would meet once a year, beginning in 1996...".

The Inter-agency Task Force for the Implementation of the Programme of Action would report annually to the Commission. At each session, the Commission would also consider reports on the monitoring of population programmes; on the flow of financial resources to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action; and on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The preparation of reports on the monitoring of population programmes and the flow of financial resources was to be coordinated by UNFPA, while the preparation of reports on intergovernmental and non-governmental activities would be the subject of further discussion.

Lastly, the Commission reviewed results of work carried out since its session in 1994 and examined the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997. The biennial programme of work adopted by the Commission was considered to respond adequately to the priorities established by the Programme of Action. The Commission further underscored the need for the work programme to take fully into account the outcomes of other United Nations conferences and summits. As it did in previous years, the Commission commended the Population Division for the quality of its work.

"...the Commission called for a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action".

THE 1993 DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK: THE 1990 ROUND OF CENSUSES

The *1993 Demographic Yearbook*, which is scheduled for release in July 1995, is the forty-fifth issue in a series that began in 1948. This issue is devoted to disseminating the data collected by the most recent round of national population censuses, which span the period 1985-1994. A total of 202 countries or areas conducted population and housing censuses during that period. The census data contained in the *1993 Demographic Yearbook* include geographic, demographic and social characteristics of the population. Two tables summarize the geographic characteristics: (*a*) population by sex for major civil divisions, which contains data for 97 countries or areas; and (*b*) population by locality covering 37 countries or areas. Tables displaying demographic and social characteristics include: (*a*) population by age and sex (available for the population of 77 countries or areas as a whole and for 42 by urban/rural residence); (*b*) population by national/ethnic group and religion (available for 29 countries or areas); (*c*) population by language (25 countries); (*d*) population by literacy status (47 countries or areas); (*e*) population by school attendance (49 countries or areas); and (*f*) population by educational attainment (54 countries or areas). Data from the 1990 round of censuses of countries or areas that could not be presented in the *1993 Yearbook* will be covered by a future issue of the *Yearbook*.

In addition to the tables devoted to the special topic covered by the *1993 Yearbook*, the regular tables

present data on population by urban/rural residence, sex and age; fertility statistics; mortality data; and data on marriage and divorce. Table 3 presents selected indicators for the 25 most populous countries in the world, which account for about three quarters of the total world population.

"The 1993 Demographic Yearbook is devoted to disseminating the data collected by the most recent round of national population censuses, which span the period 1985-1994."

The *1993 Demographic Yearbook* presents the population by sex and single year of age according to urban or rural residence and for the country or area as a whole. In eight of the 25 countries with the highest population, the median age was over 33 years, meaning that slightly less than half the population was under 33 years of age. The most youthful populations were found in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico and Pakistan, where half the population was under 20 years of age. Data on the age structure of the population are available for most of the 223 countries and areas covered by the *1993 Yearbook*.

TABLE 3. SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS FOR 25 COUNTRIES RANKED BY SIZE OF POPULATION

Country	*Population (millions)*	*Total fertility rate for women*	*Expectation of life at birth (years)*		*Infant mortality rates (per 1,000 births)*	*Median age (years)*
			Male	*Female*		
China	1 196 360	2.0	66.7	70.5	44.5	25.3
India	901 459	3.7	55.4	55.7	80.0	21.7
United States of America	258 233	2.1	72.0	78.9	8.4	33.7
Indonesia	189 136	2.9	61.0	64.5	58.1	21.6
Brazil	151 534	2.9	64.1	68.7	57.7	22.7
Russian Federation	147 760	1.6	62.0	73.8	18.4	34.0
Japan	123 653	1.5	76.1	82.2	4.5	38.4
Pakistan	122 802	6.5	59.0	59.2	107.7	17.9
Bangladesh	115 203	4.5	56.9	56.0	107.5	19.7
Nigeria	105 264	6.5	48.8	52.0	84.2	..
Mexico	91 261	3.2	62.1	66.0	36.0	19.8
Germany	81 187	1.4	71.8	78.4	6.2	37.7
Viet Nam	71 324	3.9	63.7	67.9	42.0	20.1
Philippines	65 649	3.8	63.1	66.7	43.6	20.6
Turkey	60 227	3.4	63.3	66.0	62.3	22.2
Thailand	58 584	2.2	63.8	68.9	36.6	23.8
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	58 264	5.0	58.4	59.7	36.0	17.7
United Kingdom	58 191	1.8	73.5	79.1	6.6	35.8
France	57 379	1.8	72.9	81.1	7.3	35.4
Italy	57 057	1.3	73.5	80.0	7.4	36.8
Egypt	56 489	4.3	62.9	66.4	39.8	20.0
Ukraine	52 179	1.8	66.1	75.2	15.1	35.3
Ethiopia	51 859	7.0	45.9	49.1	119.2	15.5
Myanmar	44 596	4.2	57.9	63.1	84.0	20.8
Republic of Korea	44 056	1.7	66.9	75.0	24.4	27.8

Mortality statistics contained in the *Yearbook* indicate that the female population in three countries—France, Italy and Japan—can expect to live at least 80 years if subject to the mortality levels prevalent in the 1990s. Men, however, continue to be subject to higher mortality levels than women in developed countries (see table 3). Among the 25 most populous countries, the gap in life expectancy between women and men is widest in the Russian Federation (11.8 years), Ukraine (9.1 years), France (8.2 years) and the Republic of Korea (8.1 years). Low differentials between male and female life expectancies are found in the Islamic Republic of Iran (0.7 years), India (0.3 years) and Pakistan (0.2 years), and in Bangladesh, life expectancy for men exceeds that for women by almost a year.

The literacy status of the population is available for 47 countries. High levels of illiteracy are still common in certain African countries, such as the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire or Senegal, where 65 per cent of the population aged 15 or older cannot read or write. Among the 25 most populous countries, only nine had data on literacy status from the 1990 round of censuses. Egypt and India displayed particularly high levels of illiteracy among that group (48 and 56 per cent, respectively). In many developing countries, the proportion illiterate is higher among women than among men. That is the case of countries such as Egypt, India, Malawi and Mauritania, where illiteracy levels remain high, and of countries like Bolivia, China or Turkey, where illiteracy levels are moderate. The proportion illiterate tends to be particularly high among rural women. Among the 10 countries with data available, in at least three—Egypt, Turkey and Uganda—the level of illiteracy among female rural dwellers was over 25 percentage points higher than that among their male counterparts, and in Iraq the equivalent difference was 19 percentage points. In all those countries, at least 40 per cent of rural women remained illiterate.

Copies of the *Demographic Yearbook 1993* (Sales No. E/F.95.XIII.1) can be ordered from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York, or Geneva, or through major booksellers throughout the world.

Users of the *Yearbook* may be interested to note that the Demographic and Social Statistics Database (DSSD) is now in full operation. It contains data published since 1948 in the 44 issues of the *Demographic Yearbook*. It provides rapid access to demographic and social time-series statistics, beginning with data from 1950. It also permits users to choose one of 30 topics by time period, by country or area, or by data source. As the development of DSSD continues, additional topics will be added and most data files will be updated annually. Copies of the database may be ordered by writing to The Director, United Nations Statistical Division, United Nations, Rm. DC2-1520, New York, NY 10017; Fax (212) 963-1940 or INTERNET address DEMOSTAT@UN.ORG.

The next issue of the *Demographic Yearbook* will feature the economic characteristics of population as recorded by the 1990 round of population censuses. It will cover data on economic participation rates; the economically active population by type of activity; and the economically active population by industry, by occupation and by employment status.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Evolving patterns of fertility behaviour in developing countries

A global report on fertility levels and trends in developing countries is being prepared by the Population Division, which is intended to complement an earlier publication devoted to examining fertility levels and trends in developed countries (*Patterns of Fertility in Low-fertility Settings*). The new study will

consider all fertility estimates derived from censuses, surveys and vital registration dating from 1970 onwards. Observed patterns of fertility decline will be documented and discussed within a regional comparative framework, and particular attention will be given to changes in the age pattern of fertility. In addition to various measures of fertility, the report will present information on several demographic factors that determine fertility levels, such as the timing of marriage and the use of contraception, as well as on the social, economic and cultural context of fertility change.

World population monitoring

Work has begun on the preparation of *World Population Monitoring, 1996*. This will be the first annual report on a special theme derived from the Programme of Action as was proposed by the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-eighth session (21 February-2 March 1995). The theme for the 1996 report is reproductive rights and reproductive health, including population information, education and communication. This theme corresponds to the issues addressed in chapter 7 of the Programme of Action together with relevant parts of chapters 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12.

In addition to an overview and an introductory chapter, the report is expected to cover topics such as entry into reproductive life; reproductive behaviour; contraception; abortion; maternal mortality; sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; reproductive rights; and population information, education and communication with respect to reproductive rights and reproductive health. The report will also include annex tables providing indicators of the current demographic situation in major areas and regions as well as data on population size and growth; population distribution; and fertility and mortality levels in countries, major areas and regions.

The report will be presented to the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-ninth session in 1996.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Studies and reports

World Urbanization Prospects: The 1994 Revision
(ST/ESA/SER.A/150)
Available in English only
Sales No. E.95.XIII.12; price, US$37.50.

Population and Development, vol. I, *Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994*
(ST/ESA/SER.A/149)
Now available in English; also in French and Spanish at a later date.
Sales No. E.95.XIII.7; price, US$10.00.

Results of the Seventh Population Inquiry among Governments
(ST/ESA/SER.R/140)
Available in English only
Sales No. E.95.XIII.11; price, US$20.00.

Global Population Policy Database, 1993 (GRIPP:1993)
(ST/ESA/SER.R/138)
Available in English only
Sales No. E.95.XIII.9; price, US$25.00.

Population Policy Diskette Documentation, 1993
(ST/ESA/SER.R/139)
Available in English only
Price, US$50.00, including the diskette.

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AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY

BIRTHS AND AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES FOR MAJOR AREAS AND REGIONS OF THE WORLD, 1990-1995

Major area or region	*Total births (thousands)*	*Total fertility rate (per women)*	*Fertility rate (per 1,000 women, by age group)*							*Percentage of births to women*	
			15-19	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*Under age 20*	*Age 35 or older*
World	**687 422**	**3.1**	**60**	**181**	**177**	**112**	**59**	**24**	**8**	**11**	**11**
More developed regions	**72 484**	**1.7**	**32**	**96**	**111**	**71**	**26**	**5**	**0**	**9**	**9**
Less developed regions	**614 938**	**3.5**	**65**	**200**	**194**	**124**	**71**	**31**	**11**	**11**	**11**
Least developed countries	**114 735**	**5.8**	**140**	**275**	**273**	**218**	**149**	**79**	**27**	**17**	**14**
Africa	**142 412**	**5.8**	**136**	**267**	**272**	**219**	**149**	**82**	**35**	**17**	**15**
Eastern Africa	48 686	6.5	151	305	299	242	166	97	34	17	14
Middle Africa	17 611	6.5	207	305	271	230	163	89	26	23	13
Northern Africa	23 732	4.2	60	187	236	179	112	50	14	10	15
Southern Africa	7 154	4.2	75	198	217	165	98	63	28	12	16
Western Africa	45 228	6.5	164	290	289	240	171	99	56	18	16
Asia	**417 929**	**3.0**	**45**	**186**	**183**	**108**	**56**	**22**	**7**	**8**	**10**
Eastern Asia	123 218	1.9	14	160	134	55	15	4	1	4	4
South-central Asia	206 320	4.1	73	223	237	152	89	38	12	11	12
South-eastern Asia	63 091	3.3	47	162	181	139	87	33	9	9	14
Western Asia	25 299	4.4	65	206	240	173	121	58	21	10	16
Europe	**42 056**	**1.6**	**27**	**98**	**102**	**62**	**23**	**5**	**0**	**8**	**9**
Eastern Europe	17 818	1.6	38	132	89	44	18	4	0	12	7
Northern Europe	6 252	1.8	27	92	125	87	32	6	0	6	10
Southern Europe	7 762	1.4	17	73	99	64	25	6	0	6	10
Western Europe	10 224	1.5	11	66	113	79	29	5	0	3	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	**59 806**	**3.1**	**79**	**173**	**156**	**111**	**66**	**28**	**5**	**15**	**11**
Caribbean	4 069	2.8	78	153	138	95	57	24	8	16	11
Central America	17 762	3.5	89	194	181	126	75	31	8	17	10
South America	37 975	3.0	75	167	149	108	65	27	4	15	12
Northern America	**22 578**	**2.1**	**60**	**113**	**120**	**81**	**32**	**5**	**0**	**13**	**10**
Oceania	**2 642**	**2.5**	**28**	**111**	**163**	**119**	**53**	**20**	**8**	**6**	**14**
Australia-New Zealand	1 594	1.9	24	83	141	98	33	5	0	6	10

Source: Population Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, United Nations Secretariat. *World Population Prospects: The 1994 Revision* (United Nations, forthcoming, 1995).